



Dutchess County SPCA, Inc.

Bequests and Estate Planning

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Bequests and Estate Planning are Important to the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. and to You

As the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. continues its work, a valuable source of funds will be the continued flow of bequests from friends like you. Bequests of all sizes and for a wide range of purposes are essential to our life. If you have made a gift of a bequest, please let us know. Not just so that we can thank you, but to make your future gift part of the present. Knowing about your bequest is as precious as having current resources. It helps us plan with the benefit of actually knowing a little bit of the future.

If you have not yet made your will or estate plan we encourage you to do so. With a well-executed document and estate plan, you can determine the use of your assets to further your desires and avoid unnecessary taxes. Of course, we hope you consider making a gift to the Preserve as part of your legacy. But that is not our reason for encouraging you to take care of your estate planning now. We know the benefits of doing so: peace of mind that your affairs are in order, avoiding unnecessary government fees or taxes, sharing your philanthropic goals with your family and community, and ensuring that those for whom you care and are responsible are taken care of.

Making the Bequest

You can make a gift to the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. from your estate by signing a new will or trust instrument, or by adding a codicil to your present will, or an amendment to your present trust instrument.

Examples of assets that you can bequeath to the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. include cash, securities, real estate, a percentage of all the residue of the estate, and certain other assets.

To ensure that your exact intentions are carried out you should discuss your estate planning goals with the development department of the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. and prepare the documents with the advice of your attorney. We are prepared to work with you to achieve your goals and will be happy to meet with you or send you additional information about our programs and naming opportunities for legacy gifts.

Your Tax Savings – a Philanthropic and Financial Legacy for your Heirs

Outright gifts to the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. from your estate – whatever the amount, and whether they are expendable or for endowment – are entirely free from federal estate tax. The resulting tax savings can be substantial. In a large estate, the tax savings may amount to more than half the value of the gift to the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. enabling you to provide a philanthropic as well as a financial legacy for your heirs.

Consider these Questions

1. *Shall the purpose of the bequest be unrestricted or restricted?*

An unrestricted gift can be used in the future where and when it is most needed. Restricted gifts – where the use of the future funds is prescribed by our donors can support the key facets of our mission: they can be used to build endowments or other funds for Land Stewardship, Management and Acquisition; Environmental and Habitat Research; Education and Interpretive Programs. Additionally, funds can be used to establish internships, scholarships and awards. And, there is always need to supplement general operating activities.

2. ***Shall the bequest establish a permanent endowment fund that will provide income every year in perpetuity to carry out its purpose; or shall both the gift and any income earned be expendable?***

3. ***Would you like to make an outright gift upon your death to be used for current use at the discretion of the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. board of directors?***

4. ***By what name will the fund be known?***
The Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. has created opportunities to honor the donor, or memorialize another person or persons of the donor's choosing. Named funds are highly visible in the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. community because of the people and activities they support. Thus they also encourage others to give and are examples of generosity and commitment.

5. ***Is now the time to build a comprehensive philanthropic program and consider the other organizations and issues that are important to you and your family?***
The Dutchess County SPCA, Inc. is ready to work with you to ensure that all of your goals are considered, whether we are the sole or even the prominent beneficiary of your generosity. We can help you devise a plan for giving that meets your multi-dimensional needs and benefit many organizations.

The gift requirements for endowing named funds vary over time and depend upon purpose. To generalize, most named endowments are a result of a gift valuing \$50,000. If you wish to make a provision in your will to endow a named fund, please contact the development office for assistance in formulating the best bequest language to meet your needs and to ensure that we can help you achieve your goals.

We are available to provide information on charitable and financially beneficial giving. Please call or write us at the Development Office to tell us about any plans you've made or to request information on how to make a bequest or establish a trust as a gift to the Dutchess County SPCA, Inc.